NORTH – SOUTH KOREA

Red Cross Talks

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The 24rd Sitting of Preliminary Talks between North and South Korean Red Cross Societies Held

The 24th sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies was held at Panmunjom on July 26 amid the great expectation and concern of all the compatriots of the north and south.

At the meeting which was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and trust in the spirit of the joint statement of the north and the south based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, laid down by the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, other procedural matters of the full-dress talks were discussed following the 23rd sitting of the preliminary talks.

At the meeting the two sides deepened the discussions of questions one by one on the basis of the points proposed by the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society at the previous meeting in connection with other procedural matters of the full-dress talks.

The south Korean side expressed first its stand on the points of discussion concerning these matters previously put forward by our side.

Though the south Korean side fully accepted the stand of our side on most questions of other procedural matters of the full-dress talks, it advanced opinions differing from our side's in a number of important questions.

The south Korean side, first of all, refused to accept the proposal of our side to open the first session of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang at first and proposed to have it in Seoul at first and then in Pyongyang on August 22.

As it was useless to drag on the meeting over the dissenting arguments of the two sides on the venue of the first session of the full-dress talks, the two sides decided to have further study of this question, allowing more time.

And the south Korean side failed to show understanding for the just proposal of our side to invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the first sessions of the full-dress talks to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul, advancing its view that it was not a question to be agreed upon at the Red Cross preliminary talks.

Stressing that to invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the first sessions of the full-dress talks in Pyongyang and Seoul is a question which must be discussed at all events, our side spoke time and again to help the south Korean side understand this question.

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of our side, stressed that the full-dress talks between the Red Cross societies of the north and the south would be a nation-wide undertaking assuming the weighty tasks to lessen the immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings forced upon our compatriots by the artificial division of the country and, furthermore, lay a stepping-stone for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country. It is entirely justifiable to invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the talks, he declared.

To invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the first sessions in Pyongyang and Seoul fully accords with the spirit of the joint statement of the north and the south which the whole nation supports and welcomes, he said.

Recalling that the joint statement of the north and the south based on the three principles of national reunification solemnly declared to the whole nation their active cooperation in bringing to an early success the talks between the Red Cross societies of the north and the south, he emphasized: It is an important guarantee for successfully advancing the talks in the spirit of the joint statement of the north and the south to invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to attend the Red Cross talks and congratulate them.

Stressing that the Red Cross societies are mass organizations enlisting all strata of the population, transcending differences of political views and religious faith, and accordingly, it is one of the basic principles of the Red Cross activities to apply its principles of humanitarianism to all the objects and carry out its mission in its practical activities with the active support and cooperation of all domains concerned, broad public circles and the masses, the head of the delegation held that it fully accords with the basic principles and mission of the Red Cross activities to invite the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south to the first sessions of the full-dress talks to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul.

Noting with particular empha-

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The 24th sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Crosssocieties was held

North-South Economic and Cultural Exchange Is an Important Means for Restoring National Ties and Accelerating National Reunification

Ever since liberation, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic have repeatedly offered to the south Korean authorities rational and realistic programmes and proposals for the country's independent, peaceful reunification.

As the basic means for independent, peaceful reunification, the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic proposed the establishment of a unified government through free north-south general elections. Also as a transitional step they proposed on several occasions to institute a Confederation of north and south Korea.

Since the south Korean authorities refused to accept these just proposals of ours, we time and again proposed to effect at least economic and cultural interchange between the north and south.

Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people, stated:

"We have maintained time and again that if the south Korean authorities cannot accept the Confederation, then the nation's tribulations caused by the division should at least be softened by effecting north-south economic and cultural exchange, leaving aside political questions for the time being." (Kim Il Sung, *Selected Works,* Vol. IV, Eng. ed., p. 196.)

Our proposal for north-south economic and cultural exchange and cooperation is the most correct and reasonable proposal which is based on our ardent compatriotic desire to make every possible effort to restore the severed national ties, remove distrust and promote understanding between the fellow countrymen, thus rapidly rehabilitating the devastated south Korean economy and improving the living conditions of the south Korean people.

Today it is the most urgent question to stabilize the national economy of south Korea and improve the living standard of its people. For this north-south economic exchange is imperative.

Through their heroic struggle, the people in the northern half materialized socialist industrialization and laid firm foundations for an independent national economy under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea. The mighty economic basis laid in the north is a solid asset to develop the national economy of the whole of Korea in an independent way.

Only when economic cooperation and exchange between north and south Korea are effected, the powerful industry in the northern half and agriculture in the south can be organically linked together to ensure a uniform and independent development of the national economy and, on the strength of the solid economic foundations in north Korea, can the ruined south Korean economy be rehabilitated and the living conditions of all the south Korean people in dire distress be improved.

Introduction of foreign capital only leads to national ruin and subjugation. Through their bitter experience of the past and through the south Korean reality of today the Korean people know too well what the inroad of foreign capital means.

If we all the Korean people join our efforts in exploiting the rich resources of our country and developing the national economy in a unified way on the basis of the powerful heavy industry in the northern half, we will be able to live as well as others.

For the successful north-south interchange, we also proposed to form a purely economic commission composed of representatives of business circles of north and south Korea. Through this commission the north and south will exchange goods at some de-

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sis that the proposal of our side reflects to the full the realistic demand of our country, Kim Tae Hui said that now the entire compatriots in the north and the south are warmly supporting and welcoming the joint statement of the north and the south in which the three principles of national reunification are clarified and they are filled with surging enthusiasm to achieve national harmony and great unity, dispelling antagonism and distrust between the north and the south, and are bending every effort to warmly congratulate the forthcoming full-dress talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies.

Reminding the other side that all the political parties—the Workers' Party of Korea, the North Korean Democratic Party, the Chondoist Chongu Party, etc.—and public organizations in the northern half of the Republic, together with the entire people, promise us not to spare efforts and assistance in bringing our Red Cross talks to an early success and the south Korean political parties such as the Democratic Republican Party, the New Democratic Party, the Mass Party, the Nationalist Party and the United Socialist Party and public organizations are also showing deep interest in the north-south Red Cross talks, he stressed that these north and south Korean political parties and public organizations must be invited to the first sessions of the full-dress talks to be held in Pyongyang and Seoul.

Journalists from north and south Korea covering the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies at Panmunjom

The attendance of the representatives of the political parties and public organizations of the north and the south, particularly their chiefs or deputy chiefs, at our talks will not only help carry out the humanitarian work for alleviating the sufferings of the compatriots separated in the north and the south more satisfactorily and easily in conformity with the expectation and desire of the people, but also promote the trust and understanding between the north and the south, create a good atmosphere and finally make a great contribution to the cause of the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, stressed the head of the delegation of our side.

But, this question was left for further study, the south Korean side failing to show understanding for this just proposal of our side.

Now that the views of both sides on other procedural matters of the full-dress talks have been expressed in the main and the difference in views has been narrowed down considerably, our side proposed at the meeting that the remaining questions of other procedural matters of the full-dress talks be discussed at a working-level meeting for the speedy conclusion of the preliminary talks.

This was an expression of another sincere efforts of our side to conclude earlier the full-dress talks in conformity with the expectation and desire of the entire north and south Korean people and the world people.

The south Korean side agreed to this proposal of our side with understanding.

It was agreed upon to hold behind closed doors the working-level meeting of the preliminary talks for discussing other procedural matters of the full-dress talks with the attendance of one delegate and 2 or 3 suites from each side.

And the two sides agreed upon fixing the date of the first working-level meeting of the preliminary talks for discussing other procedural matters of the full-dress talks through the permanent telephone liaison offices in Panmunjom and deciding the date of the 25th meeting of the preliminary talks after the speedy conclusion of the working-level meeting.

Panmunjom (3)

The national split caused by U.S. imperialism has brought innumerous, untold tragedies to our country. Dear mothers and children have been separated from each other, and even harmonious villages cut into two parts.

Pyonghwa-*ri* and Taesong-*dong* are one of them. The former is located in the northern half of the Republic and the latter in the south. Both can be seen from Panmun Bridge.

They formed one and the same village before lying on the small river Sachon-gang.

For ages the villagers had lived amicably. They enjoyed festivals together; men wrestling on the sandy river-side hearing the sweet ripplings of the limpid water, and women playing seesaws and swings on the hill of Cho-san in the middle of the village.

However, the cursed Military Demarcation Line cut through the village owing to the U.S. imperialist aggression in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Since then, the village, which had been an integral whole for centuries, has been divided into two villages, each with different names.

The bridge affords unobstructed views of both of them.

The river flows on and the hill stands in the centre of the village just as they did before.

However, their realities are entirely different.

Towards Pyonghwa-*ri* in the north, you can see a beautiful landscape of modern farm houses at the foot of hillocks covered with orchards and fertile co-operative field vibrating with the hum of tractors.

On the other side of the river to the south, there are desolate fields overgrown with reeds, a weedy pass and a forlorn village with a barbed-wire fence running right across it; ramshackle straw-thatched huts straggle with a few painted match-box cottages whose chimneys emit no smoke all the year round.

This is an awfully lonely sight.

In autumn the farmers sing melodious songs, gathering rich rice harvest in the fields north of the Demarcation Line, whereas only the rustling of the reeds is heard from the south. That is why even wild birds fly from their nests in the south overgrown with weeds to the golden rice paddies in the north in quest of feed.

It is appalling, indeed!

Divided for 19 years this single village has gone totally different ways under the different systems. Hence the map showed "two villages," which are not two actually.

This tragedy is not confined to this village and its people.

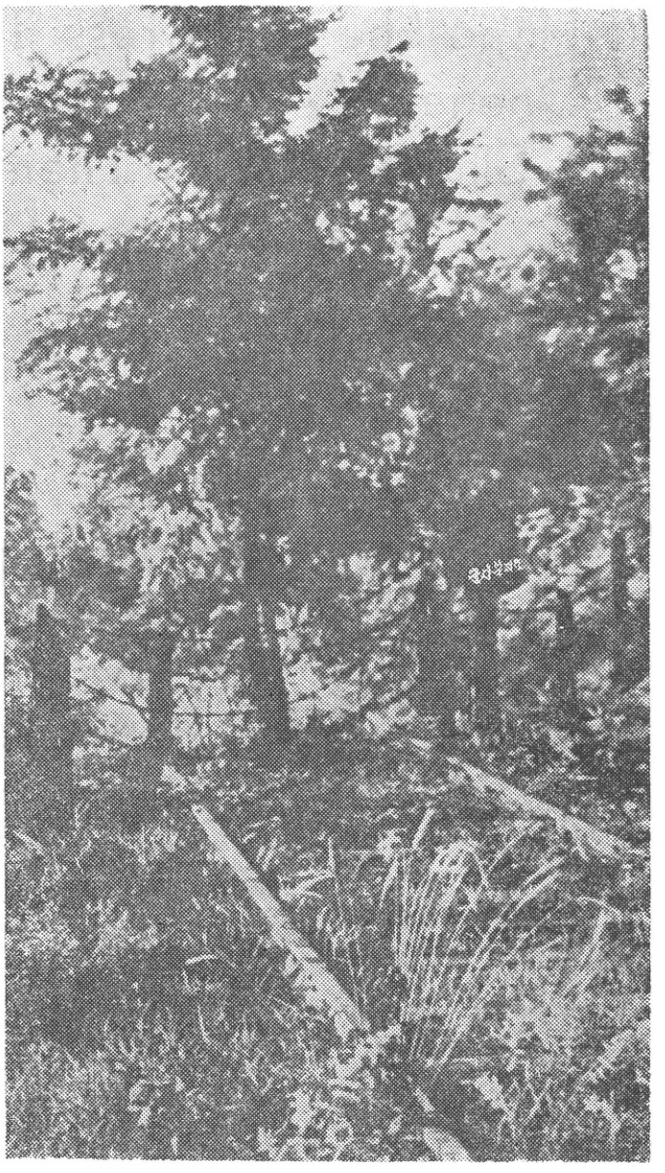
Comrade Kim Il Sung, the great Leader of the Korean people, has been making every possible effort ever since liberation to put an end to the misfortune imposed on our people. Particularly in his historic speech of August 6 last year, he advanced a new, epoch-making proposal for an independent peaceful reunification and has dynamically aroused the entire people in the north and south to the struggle to put it into effect.

At long last, a breach has been opened in the frozen barrier between the north and the south, and the first contact and dialogue made between the fellow countrymen on the two sides.

The south Korean authorities accepted, though belatedly, our proposal for north-south negotiations and positively responded to the north-south Red Cross talks. This led to the eventful meeting between the liaison personnel of the north and south Korean Red Cross societies in August 1971. One month later, on September 20 of the same year, the first sitting of delegates of both Red Cross organizations was followed by the historic event: the establishment of the first direct telephone link that connects the nerve systems of the north and the south.

This is an event of really great significance for our people who have been subjected to the unbearable tragedy and sufferings of national split, unable to exchange even a letter with their blood relations for 26 years after liberation.

This historic event took place precisely here at Panmunjom.



The traffic between the north and the south on this railway is still blocked due to the Military Demarcation Line set up as a result of the U.S. imperialist aggression

Foreign friends visiting Panmunjom unanimously denounce the U.S. imperialist aggressors, the main obstacle to the independent peaceful reunification of Korea

"I Hope the Full-Dress Talks Will Be Opened As Soon As Possible, and Sincerely Wish Them Success," Says a Woman Doctor

"...The south Korean side agreed in principle to our proposal to hold the first session of the full-dress talks on August 5.

The preliminary talks has now entered the discussion on the other procedural matters. So the day of the historic full-dress talks is close at hand...

I read this news item over and over again. How wonderful it would be if the full-dress talks are opened, progress smoothly and make a substantial achievement to live up to the expectation of all the fellow countrymen!

It is 22 years since I joined the Volunteers in Seoul and left for the northern half of the Republic. It was September 20, 1950.

I bid farewell to my ailing mother and to my younger brother who came to see me off, telling him to take good care of her. Since then, 7,973 days have drifted by. Every day I felt an irrepressible urge to reunite with my mother and brother and exchange letters with them. How many sleepless nights I have spent, yearning for my families! The same is true of all the other compatriots who have been living separated from their families. This is a tragedy of us all. This is a Korean tragedy.

Whenever I feel this tragic suffering, I am overpowerd with a bitter hatred for the steel-helmeted Yankees who are trampling upon our country.

We are a talented and resourceful people; we are a homogeneous, sturdy nation who has lived in harmony from time immemorial.

We Koreans are fully capable of settling the Korean question by ourselves as is shown by the results of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies.

As a medical worker of the DPRK, I do hope that the full-dress Red Cross talks designed to alleviate the sufferings of the separated families and relatives will start as soon as possible, and I sincerely wish them success.

I want to see my mother and brother and let them know that I was graduated from the medical university and became a full-fledged doctor and the chief of the internal treatment department, under the solicitude of the great Leader Marshal Kim Il Sung.

I want to give medical care to my frail mother; together with the people in the north, I want to take care of all parents, brothers and sisters in the south at this hospital where I am working. I want to take a stroll along the street of Pyongyang with my brother who was so anxious to come after me, and talk about the Leader's great virtues and affection for me to our hearts' content.

The dav is sure to come."

Cha Jong Ja
Chief of the 2nd Internal Treatment Department
Korean Red Cross Hospital

"We Wish the Two Sides Actively Cooperate So That the North-South Red Cross Talks May Be Brought to Success Even a Day Earlier"

The announcement of the north-south joint statement declaring an agreement between both sides on the matter of bringing an earliest success to the north-south Red Cross talks now under way with the expectation of the whole nation is stirring up whirlwinds of joy and excitement day after day among the people of all sections in south Korea.

A Li in Seoul expressed his excitement:

"When I hear that both sides agreed upon bringing the north-south Red Cross talks to an earlier success, I feel something really warm in my heart and tears of joy in my eyes."

An intellectual in Seoul expressed his emotion at the inspiring news, noting:

"I have been closely watching the progress of the north-south Red Cross talks, and on hearing the north-south joint statement, I feel as if giving out a long-bated breath." He stressed that the entire Korean people "must unite and cooperate" so that the agenda of the full-dress talks may be properly discussed.

In particular, those from the northern half of the Republic who were forced to go to south Korea, intimidated by the atomic blackmail and lies of U.S. imperialist aggressors during the Fatherland Liberation War and have been wandering in distress, can hardly repress repentance and excitement at this moment.

A person from the northern half remarked, showing tears of joy:

"As a man with my home in the northern half, I am so deeply moved and delighted that I feel my suppressed heart bursting up. I hope and desire that the north-south Red Cross talks will be successful so that we can see our families, relatives and other people at home as soon as possible."

Another from the northern half expressed his joy, saying:

"My heart is full of emotion at the news. Desire for reunion of families and reunification wells up."

A south Korean woman remarked:

"I can hardly describe the impatience of those who know nothing about what happened to their families. How very nice it will be if both sides actively cooperate for an earliest success of the north-south Red Cross talks and open the door for reunion of all those dispersed families. I hope that will come true without fail."

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signated places and cooperate and help each other in economic construction.

Along with this economic exchange, there should be an extensive cultural exchange between the north and south.

From time immemorial, the Koreans are a homogeneous nation of the same blood. Our nation has the same language and alphabet and has inherited the same historical and cultural traditions.

However, our people have been seperated in the north and south for 27 years, unable to visit each other, meet each other or even hear from each other. Consequently, the language and alphabet are gradually changing and so are the culture and customs in the north and the south. Especially, because of the occupation of south Korea by the U.S. imperialists and its re-invasion by the Japanese militarists, our national culture and beautiful manners and customs are being mercilessly obliterated in south Korea.

This hinders the coordinated progress of our nation and plunges south Korea deeper into the abyss of corruption and degeneration.

We can never assume the attitude of an onlooker to this fact simply because of the difference of social system in the north and south.

Scientific and cultural exchange between the two parts must be actualized without delay.

Only when north and south Korea exchange cultural missions and materialize interchange and cooperation in all domains such as science, culture, arts and sports, is it possible to rapidly develop the science, technology and culture of south Korea and enlist the knowledge and talents of its scientists, technicians and men of culture and art in the advancement of the national economy and national culture. Then we will be able to rapidly develop our science and technology in a unified way, make our culture and art more resplendent in the world. In the sphere of sports, too, we will be able to form single sports teams and demonstrate our skill to the world.

When the north-south economic and cultural exchange and cooperation are materialized to fill each other's needs, we will be able to not only restore the disconnected national ties and promote the uniform development of the national economy and culture but also deepen mutual understanding and trust and greatly expedite the cause of the country's independent, peaceful reunification.